

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Withdrawn)

1 The method of cooling an injection molded parison of a thermoplastic
2 material on a core rod, the method comprising:
3 providing a supply of compressed air from a source;
4 conditioning the supply of compressed air; and
5 circulating the conditioned, compressed air through an interior of the
6 core rod.

10. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 9 wherein the conditioning of the
2 supply of compressed air comprises:
3 regulating the pressure of the supply of compressed air.

11. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 9 wherein the step of conditioning the
2 supply of compressed air comprises:
3 heating the supply of compressed air.

12. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 9 wherein the conditioning of the
2 supply of compressed air comprises:
3 cooling the supply of compressed air.

13. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 12 wherein the cooling of the supply of
2 compressed air comprises:
3 injecting a water spray into the supply of compressed air.

14. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 9 and further comprising:
2 exhausting conditioned air from the core rod.

15. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 14 wherein the exhausting of
2 conditioned air from the core rod comprises:
3 discharging the exhausted compressed air from the core rod to
4 atmosphere.

16. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 14 wherein the exhausting of
2 conditioned air from the core rod comprises:
3 recompressing and reconditioning the exhausted compressed air and
4 returning the recompressed and reconditioned exhausted compressed air to the
5 core rod.

17. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 9 wherein the thermoplastic material is
2 selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene, high density
3 polyethylene and polypropylene.

18. (Withdrawn)

1 A method of changing the temperature of a core rod for use in
2 injection molding annular elongate parisons of a thermoplastic material in an
3 injection blow molding process in which a parison is cooled on the core rod at a
4 first location of the core rod, blown into a container at a second location of the
5 core rod and the container is stripped from the core rod at a third location of the
6 core rod, the method comprising:
7 providing a supply of compressed air from a source;
8 conditioning the supply of compressed air from the source; and

9 circulating, in an annular pattern, the conditioned, compressed air to
10 flow through an interior of the core rod at the first and third locations of the core rod
11 substantially along an entire length of the core rod and then in reverse back
12 through the core rod to an outlet from the core rod;
13 wherein the step of conditioning the supply of compressed air
14 comprises cooling the supply of compressed air when the core rod is at the first
15 location and then heating the supply of compressed air.

19. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 18 wherein the conditioning of the
2 supply of compressed air comprises:
3 regulating the pressure of the supply of compressed air.

20. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 18 wherein the cooling of the supply of
2 compressed air comprises:
3 injecting a water spray into the supply of compressed air.

21. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 18 and further comprising:
2 exhausting conditioned air from the core rod.

22. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 21 wherein the exhausting of
2 conditioned air from the core rod comprises:
3 discharging the exhausted compressed air from the core rod to
4 atmosphere.

23. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 18 wherein the exhausting of
2 conditioned air from the core rod comprises:
3 recompressing and reconditioning the exhausted compressed air and
4 returning the recompressed and reconditioned exhausted compressed air to the
5 core rod.

24. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 18 wherein the thermoplastic material
2 is selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene, high density
3 polyethylene and polypropylene.

25. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 18 wherein the cooling of the supply of
2 compressed air is accomplished by providing a cooler to cool the compressed air

3 and the heating of the supply of compressed air is accomplished by providing a
4 heater to heat the compressed air.

26. (Withdrawn)

1 The method according to claim 20 wherein:
2 the providing of a source of compressed air to be cooled and the
3 providing of a source of compressed air to be heated is accomplished by providing
4 a single inlet line for both steps.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended)

1 ~~Apparatus according to claim 8,~~ An injection blow molding machine
2 having a turret with at least three planar faces, each of the planar faces carrying at
3 least one hollow core rod, the turret being rotatable by an indexing motion to
4 present each face, successively, at a plurality of stations to form, at one of said
5 stations, a preform of an article on said at least one core rod at said one of said
6 stations, and then to form, at a successive one of said stations, a blown article from
7 said preform on said at least one core rod, and apparatus for cooling said at least
8 one core rod at said one of said stations, said apparatus comprising:
9 a source of compressed air;

10 means for conditioning compressed air from said source;
11 means for circulating conditioned compressed air from said means for
12 conditioning compressed air through said at least one core rod at said one of said
13 stations;
14 means for blocking circulation of compressed air from said means for
15 conditioning compressed air through said at least one core rod at the successive
16 one of said stations;
17 said means for circulating compressed air comprising means for
18 exhausting compressed air from said at least one core rod at said one of said
19 stations, and
20 means for compressing compressed air exhausted from said at least
21 one core rod and returning said compressed air exhausted from said at least one
22 core rod to said means for circulating compressed air for conditioning by said
23 means for conditioning to return said compressed air exhausted from said at least
24 one core rod to said at least one core rod,
25 wherein said means for blocking circulation of compressed air blocks
26 the circulation of compressed air by blocking the exhaust of spent conditioned air
27 from the successive one of said stations.

29. (New)

1 An injection blow molding machine having a turret with at least three
2 planar faces, each of the planar faces carrying at least one hollow core rod, the
3 turret being rotatable by an indexing motion to present each face, successively, at
4 a plurality of stations to form, at one of said stations, a preform of an article on said
5 at least one core rod at said one of said stations, and then to form, at a successive
6 one of said stations, a blown article from said preform on said at least one core rod,
7 and apparatus for cooling said at least one core rod at said one of said stations,
8 said apparatus comprising:

9 a source of compressed air;

10 means for conditioning compressed air from said source;

11 means for circulating conditioned compressed air from said means for
12 conditioning compressed air through said at least one core rod at said one of said
13 stations; and

14 means for blocking circulation of compressed air from said means for
15 conditioning compressed air through said at least one core rod at the successive
16 one of said stations,

17 said means for circulating compressed air comprising means for
18 exhausting compressed air from said at least one core rod at said one of said
19 stations, and

20 wherein said means for blocking circulation of compressed air blocks
21 the circulation of compressed air by blocking the exhaust of spent conditioned air
22 from the successive one of said stations.

30. (New)

1 Apparatus according to claim 29 wherein said means for conditioning
2 comprises pressure regulating means for regulating pressure of said compressed air.

31. (New)

1 Apparatus according to claim 29 wherein said means for conditioning
2 comprises heater means for heating said compressed air.

32. (New)

1 Apparatus according to claim 29 wherein said means for conditioning
2 comprises cooler means for cooling said compressed air.

33. (New)

1 Apparatus according to claim 32 wherein said cooler means
2 comprises means for injecting a spray of water into said compressed air.